

WATER COMMITTEE
APRIL 27, 2005
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Chuck Watkins, Chairman**
 Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman
 Tony Parrott
 Chris Venice

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: **Bill McNally**

ABSENT: **Jim Mallett**

STAFF PRESENT: **David Jaeger**
 Russell Ray

GUESTS: **Larry Turner, PTCWASA**
 Scott McDonald, PTCWASA
 John Munford, Fayette Citizen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Watkins at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON APRIL 23, 2005.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 23, 2005. There was no opposition.

II. RECREATION CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED.

_____ Mr. Parrott did a Power Point presentation of recreation facilities at Lake Horton and Starr's Mill. The entrance gate to Lake Horton is closed at dark. You run over a strip to get out, but cannot get back in after hours. The Water System uses garage door openers to get in if any maintenance is needed at the pump station at night. There is a pay box, two wells, two restrooms, and two pavilions. Parks and Recreation handles the reservations for the pavilions. There is a playground at Lake Horton and at Lake Kedron. A memorial bench donated by the Morelock family has been installed at Lake Horton. Part of the wooded buffer was cleared out and is now a grass buffer. Something needs to be done to complete this area. The road to the pump station has been gated. The sign on the gate says no fishing at the pump station. Since this was only done administratively, the Marshals cannot enforce the no fishing.

Mr. Parrott went on to say the water quality at the North Well is not good. Turbidity gets up to 30. A filter has been installed, but we are still having problems getting the water quality where it should be. The drinking water fountain is shut off because of this. Mr. Parrott showed a slide of the tree used for tree climbing. The day he took the pictures a lady was in the tree. Several committee members commented they thought people were

only supposed to climb the tree during a class. _____

At Starr's Mill, there was a proposal to pave the lower parking lot. Mr. Parrott showed a slide and explained where the parking lot is flooded at times when there is heavy rain. He also showed the upper parking lot and restroom area that has been staked. He commented that the neighbors are closer than before.

The committee discussed liability for the County if someone fell out of a tree while climbing, fishing around the pump station, and the gates that have been erected to block off access.

Mrs. Venice suggested a subcommittee of herself, Mr. Parrott and Russell Ray to address some of these issues and bring information back to the committee. The Committee agreed and this item was tabled for the subcommittee to meet and come back with a report.

III. WATERLINE TO RECREATION METERS IN BROOKS.

Mr. Parrott commented that the Town of Brooks has had trouble maintaining water service because of the usage off the two meters for the County park in Brooks. An option to solve this would be to run a 4" waterline using our crew to tie these two meters into our system. This would take the Recreation usage off the Town's well and the water tank we are leasing them. We would not have to worry about Parks and Recreation being the biggest user on the system in Brooks causing them trouble. Mr. Parrott commented that for the price of the pipe and the Water System crew installing the line, he thinks this would be the best thing to do. Brooks does not have a full time employee and they have trouble monitoring the system and this appears to be the easiest way to provide water to a County facility using the water we already have down there.

Chairman Watkins asked about the cost? Mr. Parrott replied about \$2,000.00.

Mr. Parrott made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to install 800 feet of pipe and put Parks and Recreation on the County system in Brooks. Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton seconded and there was no opposition.

IV. CUT - OFF POLICY.

Mr. Parrott reported that over a period of time our cut-off policy has been administratively changed. Currently we send a water bill, and if you don't pay the water bill, we send you another water bill. On the second bill it says you did not pay the first bill. If the customer has not paid by the cut off date on the second bill we send them a letter. If they don't respond to the letter, we then call them. If they don't take care of it then, we go to cut them off. When we go to cut them off, we send one of the Field Customer Service Representatives to the door to see if somebody is home and wants to pay the bill before we cut it off.

The Committee discussed the amount of time between the bill and when the customer gets cut off. Mr. Parrott explained that on Cycle 6 we did 104 cut offs and it keeps increasing. In September, 2003 we cut off 192, but since we have gotten more lenient with our policy we did 355 in March.

Mrs. McElwaney explained that if a customer does not pay by the due date, they are charged a 10% penalty. If the water is cut off, the fee is \$25.00 to have the water cut back on. If the Water System goes to the customers door the \$25.00 fee is charged, even if the money is collected and the water is not turned off.

Mrs. Venice asked if we attribute the increase in cut offs to people just letting it go, because they can. Mr. Parrott replied yes, this is the highest cut offs we have ever had, and it continues to increase. It took the two Field Service Representatives two days to cut off the 104 accounts. Mr. Parrott stated he does not like the Field Service Representatives going to the door to collect money and would like to change this.

Mrs. Venice commented she would be willing to consider the policy as it was before. Something should be written up and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. She suggested Mr. Parrott present something to the Committee at the next meeting for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

V. WATER CONSERVATION PRICING.

Mr. Parrott commented that we have to save a certain amount of water. The Department of Natural Resources is requiring mandatory water conservation pricing. It has to be adopted by December of this year. Clayton County Water Authority has already adopted three tier pricing, as well as Henry County. Cherokee adopted two tier pricing. We have about 2200 customers that use more than 20,000 gallons on 3/4 inch and 1 inch residential meters on a given month we researched. Less than 10% of our customers used more than 20,000 gallons. Admittedly, last summer was not as dry as some in the past. Mr. Parrott went on to say that we have not raised water rates since 1991.

Chairman Watkins stated that he is going to recuse himself from discussion of this subject, because of what he does for a living. He will not vote or discuss this issue. He asked Vice Chairman Dr. Patton to handle this item.

Attorney McNally suggested a subcommittee work on this and come back to the Committee with information. Mr. Parrott stated he is not asking for a vote, he just wanted everyone to know that this is coming up in December.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made a motion to table this item until a future meeting. Mr. Parrott seconded and there was no opposition.

VI. PEACHTREE CITY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY ANTENNA.

Tony Parrott explained that Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority wants to place an antenna on the Crabapple tank. Mr. Larry Turner commented that Tyrone has a couple of sewer pump stations which WASA maintains for them under contract. Right now when there is a problem the system dials Barry Amos at home. Mr. Amos wants to add this to the sewer authority SCADA system. They need to add a repeater at Crabapple to be able to communicate with the SCADA system at the offices at Rockaway. The repeater needs to be fifty feet up. It would not be on top of the tank. They don't ever need to get to it unless there is a problem. They have not had to get to the one on the other tank in about 2 years, once they got the squirrel problem solved. This is basically to transmit the signal from Tyrone's pump stations to their SCADA system.

Mr. Parrott stated it would be better to put this on top of the tank. Access would be easier. There is nothing on the outside to attach to. Mr. Turner stated there is an option, since it is only fifty feet, they could probably set a sixty foot pole right outside the fence if they could put it on Water System property. Mr. Turner commented this is a little more expense, but he does not have a problem doing this. They would not need to get inside the Water System fence.

Mr. Parrott explained this helps with the Vulnerability Assessments we have to do for the Environmental Protection Agency. It cuts down access to the site. Further discussion pertained to how much room is between the fence and the property line, where the City right-of-way is located and how much access would be needed.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:50 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 11th day of May, 2005.

Lisa McElwaney